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March 15, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Stephanie Vaughn
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 34 – February 2010
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/
Feasibility Study (RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Vaughn:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On February 4, CPG and EPA held a meeting on sediment stability.
- On February 24, CPG and EPA held a conference call to discuss the CPG's response to EPA comments on the Physical Water Column Monitoring (PWCM) QAPP Addendum for the Spring 2010 Survey.
- On February 26, CPG and EPA held a conference call to discuss outstanding issues on the PWCM QAPP Addendum.

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Correspondence

- On February 1, CPG submitted a revised Figure 1 for the Revision 2 Fish QAPP Addendum 1 showing adjusted RM 2-4 survey location LPR2E.
- On February 1 and 2, CPG notified EPA that the field team for the Winter Fish Community Survey was forced to stand down due to the persistence of ice on the River and concerns regarding safe navigation.
- On February 2, EPA and CPG agreed to suspend the Winter Fish Community Survey until at least February 10 due to river ice.
- On February 8, CPG submitted the revised Decapod (Blue Crab) Tissue Sample Analysis Plan to EPA.
- On February 12, CPG submitted the revised PWCM QAPP to the EPA
- On February 12, CPG submitted the Summer/Fall 2009 Fish/Decapod Data Summary Report to the EPA.
- On February 16, CPG submitted the January Progress Report to EPA.
- On February 18, CPG submitted a proposed approach to conducting Organic Carbon Modeling as part of the LPR/Newark Bay Modeling Program.
- On February 18, CPG submitted a revision to the November 6, 2009 memorandum outlining the proposed fish samples and compositing for a list of fish species.
- On February 24, CPG received the source code and input files for the Lower Passaic River sediment transport model from EPA's contractor.
- On February 26, CPG submitted a letter to EPA identifying issues related to the PREmis database.
- On February 26, CPG submitted the Draft Risk Assessment Data Usability and Data Evaluation Plan to EPA.
- On February 26, CPG submitted the Draft Low Resolution Coring (LRC) Characterization Summary to EPA.

Work

- CPG completed the draft LRC data summary report which includes a description of the field activities, submittal of field records, analytical data results and presentation and summary of data validation results.
- CPG Modeling Team continued work on the LPR/NB Sediment Transport using a version of SIT-SEDZL-J.

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- CPG continued reviewing the Newark Bay (NB) physical water column monitoring data collected by Sommerfield and Chant.
- CPG continued reviewing the fall 2009 PCWM data.
- CPG continued planning activities for the Chemical Water Column Monitoring (CWCM) QAPP.
- CPG continued preparation of Risk Assessment Tech Memos as requested by EPA in comments on the approved Problem Formulation Document, Fish/Crab Tissue and Benthic QAPPs.
- CPG resumed the Winter Fish Community Survey on February 17, as allowed by improved weather conditions, and completed the Survey on February 24.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- On February 15, copies of lab EDD files from the November 2009 PWCM event that were validated in January 2010 were posted to the PREmis web portal.
- On February 16, preliminary electronic data (raw EDDs) for the benthic sediment sampling activities were submitted to the EPA .

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- Pending EPA approval of the QAPP, CPG will begin the spring deployment of the PWCM program with the installation of moorings and instruments and a transect survey scheduled for March 16, 2010.
- The first instrument servicing and transect event for the spring PWCM Survey is scheduled for mid April.
- CPG will continue reviewing the fall 2009 PWCM Survey data.
- CPG will continue planning activities for the CWCM QAPP.
- CPG Modeling Team will continue work on the LPR/NB Sediment Transport Model.
- CPG will continue preparation of Risk Assessment Tech Memos as requested by EPA in comments on the approved Problem Formulation Document, Fish/Crab Tissue and Benthic Sampling QAPPs.

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(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- Icy conditions on the Lower Passaic River caused the Winter Fish Community Survey work to be temporarily suspended from February 2 until February 17; the work was completed on February 24.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Rob Law at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.



Willard F. Potter
Project Coordinator

cc: Pat Hick, EPA Office of Regional Counsel
Alice Yeh, EPA
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel
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